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DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5963911 A

TITLE: Resource allocation

DATE-ISSUED: October 5, 1999

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APPL-NO: 8/ 720199
DATE FILED: September 25, 1996

PARENT-CASE:
CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION This application is a continuation (under
35 USC .sctn.120/365) of copending PCT/GB95/00587 designating the U.S. and filed
Mar. 17, 1995 as, in turn, a continuation-in-part (under 35 USC .sctn.120/365) of
copending U.S. application Ser. No. 08/301,770 filed Sept. 7, 1994 now abandoned.

FOREIGN-APPL-PRIORITY-DATA:

COUNTRY	APPL-NO	APPL-DATE
EP	94302163	March 25, 1994
GB	9416596	August 17, 1994

INT-CL: [6] G06F 19/00
US-CL-ISSUED: 705/7; 705/8, 705/9, 364/468.05, 364/468.06, 364/468.07
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FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/7, 705/8, 705/9

REF-CITED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected   Search ALL

PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
4852001	July 1989	Tsushima	364/401
4866628	September 1989	Natajaran	364/468
5006983	April 1991	Wayne	364/401
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Garwood, G.J. and Robinson, A.C., Work Management System, British
Telecommunications Engineering, pp. 204-210, Oct. 1991.

ART-UNIT: 275
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ABSTRACT:

In order to optimize the utilization of resources (e.g., technicians) in
performing a number of jobs, each job is assigned a cost time-dependent function
and each resource is assessed for the time at which it will be available. For each
combination of jobs with resources, an actual can be determined. The combination
giving the lowest overall cost is then determined. Additional features are
disclosed to ensure incompatible job/resource combinations are not allocated, and
to reduce the complexity of the calculation by prioritizing the jobs and
resources.

38 Claims, 19 Drawing figures